

Mayor's Message

May 2011

As we look to the east and see the snow in the Wasatch Mountains, I think we all realize that there is plenty of water there waiting to fill our rivers and streams. The challenge this year will be keeping it in the proper channels! We have been working hard in preparation for potential flooding. Salt Lake County has the responsibility for flood control and has been diligent in cleaning creek beds and shoring up banks. Our City crews have focused on cleaning storm drains and even removing bridges to prevent debris from damaging them. Many residents who live along the Big and Little Cottonwood Creeks or the Jordan River attended a meeting we had to discuss preparedness. There is information on our website at www.murray.utah.gov that provides contact information for any questions you may have. If you would like to volunteer to help with sand bags, the details are also listed there. I appreciate the many efforts that are being made to help protect homes and property. If you need help, the website can put you in touch with helping hands. With a united effort, I am certain we can have a positive outcome during the next few weeks.

With the challenge of a slow economy, we have spent countless hours in the last year working on ways to stretch our City budget. Many people have shared ideas and proposals as we have tried to make ends meet. One of the initiatives that the Council is considering as part of the budget is a retirement incentive. Thirty four employees have committed to taking advantage of this opportunity, if it is passed. These employees represent about 9% of our workforce and almost 1000 years of experience. I am sad to see so many talented employees leave, but also realize that this gives us a chance to reorganize and slim down our organization. We are working on changes in all departments in the City and look forward to serving you even more efficiently.

Finally, there is again an opportunity for Murray residents to connect to the fiber-optic network in parts of our City. While there have been challenges with some of the past providers, I believe new ones offer excellent service. We are committed to providing this valuable infrastructure and hope you will consider using it, if it meets your needs. Many businesses and residents are clamoring for this infrastructure. Contact information for UTOPIA is also on our website if you would like details.

I appreciate the support and neighborly focus that can be found on every street in our City. Thank you for all you do to keep Murray the great City it is today.